

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 17-41, and 43-57 are pending. Claims 12-16 and 42 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-11, 36-41, and 43-53 are allowed. Claims 19-26, 28, and 31-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17-18, 27, 29-30, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 17 is objected to for reciting "the first power supply voltage, said first latch." Claim 17 is currently amended to recite "a second latch coupled to receive a second power supply voltage less than the first power supply voltage, said second latch for retaining said data signal while said first latch is inoperative." The restore device of claim 17 couples the first latch to the second latch. Thus, applicants believe claim 17, as amended, is proper.

Claims 17-18, 27, 29-30, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zyuban et al. (US 2003/0188241). Independent claim 17, as amended, recites "*a first latch coupled to receive a first power supply voltage for latching a data signal; a second latch coupled to receive a second power supply voltage less than the first power supply voltage, said second latch for retaining said data signal while said first latch is inoperative.*" (emphasis added). This feature of the present invention is described at page 20, line 19 through page 21, line 3. Zyuban et al. fail to disclose such a limitation. Referring to Figure 6B of Zyuban et al., Examiner offers (Wdd) as a first power supply voltage and (ground) as a second power supply voltage less than the first power supply voltage. Voltage, however, is a potential difference between two terminals. A voltage at a single terminal would have no meaning without a corresponding reference terminal, and Zyuban et al. only disclose ground as a reference terminal. The first power supply voltage (Wdd) is the voltage between terminal (Wdd) and (ground). The second power supply voltage of latch 60 can only be the voltage between (Vdd) and (ground). But Zyuban et al. fail to

disclose a voltage between (Vdd) and ground is less than a voltage between (Wdd) and (ground). Thus, claims 17-18, 27, 29-30, and 35 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Zyuban et al.

Claims 54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zyuban et al. in view of Sani et al. Independent claims 54 and 56 recite "*a first latch coupled to receive a first power supply voltage for latching a data signal, a second latch coupled to receive a second power supply voltage less than said first power supply voltage and coupled to said first latch for retaining said data signal while said first latch is inoperative.*" (emphasis added). This feature of the present invention is described at page 20, line 19 through page 21, line 3. Neither Zyuban et al. nor Sani et al. teach or suggest this feature of the present invention. As previously explained, a voltage is a potential difference between two terminals. If latch 60 is taken as the second latch of claims 54-57, then the second power supply voltage must be the voltage between terminal (Vdd) and (ground). Zyuban et al. fail to disclose that this voltage is less than a first power supply voltage between (Wdd) and (ground). Thus, claims 54 and 56 and their respective depending claims 55 and 57 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 17-18, 27, 29-30, 35, and 54-57. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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